



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of May 02, 2005

BANGLADESH

Six People Die From Diarrhea in Bangladesh in 24 hour Period

across Bangladesh within a 24 hour period. At least 60 people have died of diarrhea in the past three and a half months across the country. There are 2736 medical teams engaged in 29 vulnerable districts and 89 sub districts in the country. According to the International Center for Diarrhea Diseases Research, 790 patients were admitted to the center, and most of the patients came from the areas where water supplied by the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) is contaminated.

Source:

· People's Daily News, China, Apr 26, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200504/26/eng20050426_182778.html

· Promed Mail, May 02, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10060749946471540675::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,28820

CAMBODIA

Fourth Case of Avian Influenza in Cambodia Confirmed

The Ministry of Health in Cambodia has confirmed that a 20-year-old woman from Kampot province who died on 19 April in a hospital in Viet Nam, was the country's fourth reported case of avian influenza. The woman was from Kompong Trach district in Kampot province, the same district as the first case reported from Cambodia in February. Samples taken from the woman tested positive for avian influenza A/H5 virus by the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

Source:

· WHO Website, May 04, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_05_04/en/index.html

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COEDMHA's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) team surveys, compiles and disseminates news reports from various publicly available newswires, websites, and health information networks including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and ProMed. Some information is presented in its original version. The information contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of the COEDMHA.

INDIA

UN Extremely Concerned About Accelerated Increase in HIV/AIDS Cases in India

According to certain experts, it is very likely that India has surpassed South Africa in HIV/AIDS cases and has more people living with AIDS than any other country in the world. According to the latest figures available from UNAIDS, South Africa has an estimated 5.3 million infected adults and children at the end of 2003, while India's total is believed to be 5.1 million. In India, however, UNAIDS indicates a very large estimated range of error, from 2.5 million to 8.5 million, reflecting the absence of precise statistics. With the speed at which the disease is spreading, the true figure in India is likely to have now exceeded that in South Africa. The UN is extremely concerned about the rate of increase in AIDS cases, which is much higher than previously thought.

Source:

· The Herald Tribune International, May 05, 2005, http://www.ihl.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2005/05/04/news/india.php

Hepatitis Forces College Closure in West Bengal, India

As many as 180 students of Durgapur's National Institute of Technology in West Bengal, India, have contracted hepatitis resulting in violence on the campus, postponement of all examinations, and closure of the institute. Approximately 2200 students have left the institute as a precautionary measure. Teams from the Burdwan Medical College and Durgapur Municipal Corporation visited the deserted institute. Blood samples from ill students and water samples were collected for tests. The Durgapur Steel Plant, which supplies drinking water to the institute, has been ordered by authorities to inspect the pipelines and test the water.

Source:

· Khaleej Times, Apr 30, 2005, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/April/subcontinent_April965.xml§ion=subcontinent&col=

14 People Dead from Meningitis in New Delhi, India

More suspected cases of meningococcal meningitis in New Delhi putting the death toll at 14. Ninety new cases have been reported from various parts of the city. There is also a shortage of vaccine but more should arrive shortly. The virulent disease can cause brain damage and learning disabilities. All people belonging to the highly susceptible group, such as hospital staff in direct contact with patients, will be vaccinated. The meningitis strain has broken out in the capital after two decades.

Source:

· Keralanext.com, May 05, 2005, <http://www.keralanext.com/news/?id=201168>
· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, May 05, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL266782.htm>

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INDONESIA

Polio Spreads in Indonesia with Five Cases in One Month

Five infants have been diagnosed with Polio in the province of West Java, Indonesia in one month. The babies suffered from paralysis -- a symptom of the virus that mainly strikes children under the age of five and can cause irreversible paralysis, deformation and sometimes death. Two other suspected cases are awaiting laboratory confirmation. An 18-month-old infant who was diagnosed with the virus last month is Indonesia's first reported polio case since 1995. The World Health Organization says the Indonesian cases are almost identical to a polio strain now circulating in parts of Africa and the disease may have reached the country from Africa via the Middle East. The government and UN agencies plan to vaccinate 5 million Indonesia children. Indonesia is the 16th previously polio-free country to be reinfected in the past two years.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, May 05, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK330981.htm>

PHILIPPINES

13 People Die From Dengue and Diarrhea in Cebu City, Philippines Since January

At least 13 people, mostly children, have died from dengue and diarrhea in Cebu City (central Philippines) since the start of the year. In the January to March dengue cases had an increase of more than 65%, with 8 fatalities. Cases of diarrhea increased by 11%, with 5 deaths. Cases of typhoid fever, dog bites and measles, dropped sharply. Typhoid fever cases dropped by half from 46 last year to 23 during the first quarter of 2005. Measles also went down to three cases this year from last year's 28 while only 50 patients were treated for dog bites this year compared with last year's 115 patients. One was infected with rabies. City health officials are closely watching other diseases such as diphtheria, malaria and meningococemia.

Source:

· The Manila Times, May 03, 2005, <http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2005/may/03/yehey/prov/20050503pro1.html>

SRI LANKA

Increased Malaria Risk Prompts Mosquito Net Distribution in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation), in cooperation with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) are distributing treated mosquito nets across the Ampara district to tsunami affected and indirectly affected families as part of a nationwide anti-malaria campaign. Ampara has one of the highest incidence rates of malaria in Sri Lanka, and mosquito nets provide cheap and effective prevention. As the rainy season approaches and the risk of vector borne diseases increases, distribution of the nets becomes more

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essential. Since the tsunami, over 66,000 nets have been distributed.

Source:

- American Red Cross, Apr 27, 2005, <http://none>
- Reliefweb, May 02, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/MHII-6BZ5MX?OpenDocument>

Other World News

PAKISTAN

Gastroenteritis Kills 10 People in Badin, Pakistan

Ten people have died and dozens have been hospitalized in various areas of Badin, Pakistan (southern district near Indian border) and other towns due to an outbreak of gastroenteritis within a four-day period. The affected people are mostly women and children. The number of patients is increasing in different hospitals of the district. The population is being advised to consume only boiled water. Teams, including doctors have been sent to the affected areas and necessary medicines have been provided to hospitals.

Source:

- The News International, May 04, 2005, <http://www.ianq.com.pk/thenews/may2005-daily/04-05-2005/national/n5.htm>

Water-Borne Disease Outbreak in Sindh Province, Pakistan

An outbreak of water-borne diseases has occurred in central areas of Pakistan's southern province of Sindh caused by polluted domestic water supplies. Over 1,100 people with diarrhea and illness have sought medical attention in the last two weeks. Currently approximately 300 people, mostly children, are hospitalized. High summer temperatures in Sindh contribute to diarrhea and related conditions. In 2004, over 30 people, mostly children, were killed by polluted water in Hyderabad, Pakistan. Laboratory tests of water samples from almost every area have been taken and findings suggest that contaminated water is being supplied that is not suitable for household consumption. In several areas, raw sewage and drinking water are mixed. Health officials are promoting the use of boiled water that can prevent 80% percent of cases

Source:

- Reuters Foundation Alertnet, May 05, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/b7bc1b3789cc4c0674a6540bd32c9830.htm>

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